

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF CREATION
RIVER SUNDAY



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00
27 SEPTEMBER 2026

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

*We are a community on the move,
discovering Christ together on the journey of faith.*

We see Christianity as a path to be walked together—learning, serving, praying, sharing, and growing alongside sisters and brothers. As we live and practice our faith, we not only encounter a new community; we also find the presence of God.

Read more about who we are at: www.genevalutheran.church

If you are worshipping with us for the first time or if you have been here before and would like to know more about our community, please fill out a connection card. You can scan this QR code to submit one online, or you can fill out the card on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering basket or give it to one of the ushers.



We are glad you are here—welcome!

Thank you to those sharing in worship leadership this morning:

Guest preacher: Dinesh Suna

Prayer leader: Ana Villanueva

Reader: Neil Marlborough

Altar care: Mee Ji, Bethany Rosenkrans

Assisting ministers: Grace George, Grace Mgheni, Hellen Msemo,
Rumiko Jaussi

Ushers: Queen King'ori, Joan Kiologwe, Nashipai Naing'ola

Offering counters: Penuel Kiondo-Zanetti, Sam Mungure

Flowers: German-Speaking congregation

Refreshments: Neighborhood Group C

Church School: Tim Fieldsend, May Chin Long, Tsitsi Mtata, Ritu Suna

Videographers: Gareth Kit, Ray Woodcock

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and in compliance with Swiss law. You'll find our Data Privacy Notice at:
<https://genevalutheran.church/data-privacy/>*

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Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru*

Guest Preacher: Dinesh Suna

Welcome

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Greeting (*rise*)

The throne of God,
a tree lined river,
grace rising as if healing were like a flood,
light reflecting on the water as if night were no more,
old visions reconfigure our imaginations,
so we are not trapped by what is,
nor defined by struggle and pain,
but released for life buoyed up by the love of Christ,
flowing freely through our lives,
becoming the song of our being.

Hymn

Shall we gather at the river

During the hymn the children go to church school.

Robert Lowry: USA



1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3. As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
 4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - li - ver, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Thanksgiving for Baptism (*sit*)

Prayer

When we hear the sound of the water, God of life,
 awaken in us the washing that starts us clean,

the flowing that buoys us up, carrying us over the rocks and sand,
the energy that keeps love surging in us
even when we find it difficult to stand.

*Drown out the noises of this world that would entice and entrap
so that we follow the water sound coming from you,
by which you would lead us to see.*

When we hear the sound of the water, Father and Mother of us all,
alert us to the laughter of our neighbors and the pleas of strangers,
who are swimming with us in the flood of your mercy,
bringing us closer and closer as we become adopted into your family,
sisters and brothers of your Beloved, Jesus Christ.

*Remove from us the signs we usually display as status,
but which in your eyes have become stains,
the separations that make us at the same time proud and fearful,
the divisions which impede relationship,
the judgments by which we keep ourselves apart.*

When we hear the sound of the water, God of rebirth,
remind us of your rescues,
the inner tubes that we could hold on to long enough to get to shore,
the arms around us keeping our head above water,
the respiration pumping us back to breathing.

*Save us from the sin that disconnects us
so we lose sight of each other and of you
as if we could manage all on our own in the sea.*

Hymn of Praise (*rise*)

Gloria, gloria, gloria

B-13

Luke 2:14

Pablo Sosa: Argentina

Cueca E ♩ = 72

La, la, la

Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios.
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria glo - ry to God on high.

Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos
And on earth peace to the peo - ple in

For the ending repeat 2 times each time softer.

que a - ma el Se - ñor. Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria.
whom God is well pleased.

Music © 1989 Pablo Sosa. Admin. by Oregon Catholic Press Publications.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and water was flowing from below the entryway of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east), and the water was flowing down from below the south side of the temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east, and the water was trickling out on the south side. Going on eastward with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits and then led me through the water, and it was ankle-deep. Again he measured one thousand and led me through the water, and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand and led me through the water, and it was up to the waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, "Mortal, have you seen this?"

Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish once these waters reach there. It will become fresh, and everything will live where the river goes. People will stand fishing beside the sea from En-gedi to En-eglaim; it will be a place for the spreading of nets; its fish will be of a great many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 104:27-33

These all look to you
to give them their food in due season;
when you give to them, they gather it up;

when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

When you hide your face, they are dismayed;

when you take away their breath, they die

and return to their dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created,

and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

may the LORD rejoice in his works—

who looks on the earth and it trembles,

who touches the mountains and they smoke.

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Epistle Reading

Revelation 22:1-5

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Simeí Monteiro: Brazil

Baiao ♩ = 84

A - le - lu - ia, A - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ia, A - le - lu - ia!

A - le - lu - ia, A - le - lu - ia!

Music Simeí Monteiro © 1996 GBGMusik, New York, USA.

Gospel

John 7:37-38

The gospel according to John, chapter 7.

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia

Aleluia

C-1

Simeí Monteiro: Brazil

Baiao ♩ = 84

A - le-lu - ia, A - le - lu - ia!

A - le-lu - ia, A - le - lu - ia!

A - le-lu - ia, A - le - lu - ia!

Music Simeí Monteiro © 1996 GBGMusik, New York, USA.

Sermon (*sit*)

Dinesh Suna

Hymn (rise)

As rivers flow from a distant spring

David Bjorlin

William Beckstrand: USA

1. As riv - ers flow from a dis - tant spring
 2. As trees rise up from the for - est floor
 3. As woods make shel - ter with - in its shade
 4. So let us praise you, Cre - a - tor God

to quench our thirst and feed the earth,
 by roots that feed each limb a - bove,
 for beasts to feed and birds to nest,
 for worlds that wit - ness to your care,

so let our lives flow from you, our Source,
 so let our lives rise in praise to you
 so let our lives be a shel - tered space,
 that show your pres - ence in ev - ery place,

to coun - ter death and nur - ture birth.
 from hearts we root in your deep love.
 a ref - uge for the worn to rest.
 your glo - ry shin - ing ev - ery - where.

English, David Bjorlin © 2020 GIA Publications Inc. Music, HÖKELUND, William Beckstrand © 2020 Augsburg Fortress.
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The Apostles' Creed

A-1

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,*

*he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Prayers of Intercession (*sit*)

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Gathering of Gifts (sit) *In the waters of life*
English and Music by Yanis Eberhart

1. *In the waters of life, love divine from on high
wondrous infant of God, don't you know?*

*Love's grace never-ending,
her awesome creation, and you, blessed child,
God above you, God around you, God beside you guiding your steps,
in your heart and mind and actions, guardian mild
in awesome creation, yet tender, and humble,
inviting you, blessed brothers, in the waters, the waters of life.*

2. *In the ocean of love, heaven's grace coming down
cleansing water divine, don't you see?*

*The Spirit eternal, her waters renewing, and you, blessed child,
God above you, God around you, God within you shielding your heart,
as you're born anew through water,
into God's eternal kingdom, forgiven, reborn,
and cleansing you, blessed sisters, in the ocean, the ocean of love.*

3. *In the light of new life, Jesus welcoming you
into God's family, can't you see?*

*The light of the savior, inviting you Christward and you, blessed child,
God above you, God around you, God in all your daily delights,
now you walk in Jesus' footsteps,
called to share his love and mercy, belonging, and freed,
we welcome you, blessed disciples in the light, the light of new life.*

4. *And as dawn breaks anew, clearing discord and storms,
let us join hands of care in this house.*

*No more slaves and masters, in Christ one bright body
and this be our song:
God above us, God around us, God within this house as we pray,
sisters, brothers from all horizons,
going forth in trust and courage, in service, and healing,
as preached by our savior Jesus as dawn breaks, as dawn breaks anew.*

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Offertory (rise)

A água

Simeí Monteiro

Albete Correia: Brazil

C First time Leader
2nd time All

A - qui che - gan - do, Se - nhor, que po - de - re - mos te dar?
Ar - riv - ing here oh, dear God! What can we of - fer to you?

Leader only

Um sim - ples co - ra - ção e u - ma von - ta - de de can - tar.
A sim - ple heart and deep - est wish to sing a joy - ful song.

First time Leader
2nd time All

Re - ce - be nos - so lou - vor e tu - a paz vem nos dar.
Re - ceive our best gifts of praise and may your peace be with us.

A tu - a gra - ça, Se - nhor, me - lhor que a vi - da, se - rá.
Your faith - ful mer - cy and grace will be much bet - ter than life.

F Leader only

E o teu a - mor em nós se - rá ma - nan - ci - al
And in the de - sert of our lives a ri - ver flows

First time Leader
2nd time All

de á - gua bo - a a jor - rar pra nos - sa se - de es - tan - car.
a pure wa - ter for growth; re - fresh - ing, heal - ing our land.

Music © Albete Correia. Portuguese and English © Simeí Monteiro.

Sursum Corda

Sursum corda

Pastor *People*

The Lord be with you. *And* al - so with you.

Pastor *People*

Lift up your hearts. *We lift them to the Lord.*

Pastor *People*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

Preface

Sanctus

Santo, santo, santo

E-5

Flowing Argentina

C $\text{♩} = 64$ G Am F G C

San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! ¡Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My

F G C Am F G C

co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e res Se - ñor!
heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

Remembering

... We proclaim the mystery of our faith.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Lord's Prayer *in our many languages*

A-3

Our Father in heaven,

*hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.*

Agnus Dei

Cordeiro de Deus

Traditional adapted by Simeí Monteiro

Simeí Monteiro: Brazil

C Andante Em F C G C
 Cor-dei-ro de Deus que ti-ras o pe-ca-do do mun-do
 G⁷ C Em F C
 tem pie-da-de de nós. Cor-dei-ro de Deus que ti-ras
 G C G⁷ C Gm/C
 o pe-ca-do do mun-do tem pie-da-de de nós. Tem pie
 C⁷ F Dm⁷ G⁷/C G⁷ C
 da-de de nós. Oh! Cor-dei-ro de Deus, vem e dá-nos a paz!

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*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
 Have mercy on us, O Lamb of God, come and give us peace.*

Invitation to Communion

Songs during Communion **Deep waters**

Trisha Watts: Australia

Deep wa - ters flow - ing, call - ing all to fol - low.

Watch - ing, listen - ing, wait - ing, si - lence finds a home.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first line ends with a double bar line, and the second line also ends with a double bar line.

© 1992 Trisha Watts, Willow Connection Pty. Ltd., PO Box 341, Dee Why, NSW 2099 Australia.

What we need is here

Wendell Berry

Amy McCreath: USA

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in 2/2 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are 'What we need is here.' The melody for both parts is identical. The Soprano part begins with a half note G3, followed by a half note F3. The Bass part begins with a half note G2, followed by a half note F2. The melody continues with a dotted half note E-flat3 (Soprano) / E-flat2 (Bass), followed by a quarter note D3 (Soprano) / D2 (Bass), and a quarter note C3 (Soprano) / C2 (Bass). The final measure consists of a half note G3 (Soprano) / G2 (Bass) and a half note F3 (Soprano) / F2 (Bass). The lyrics are placed below the notes: 'What' under G, 'we' under F, 'need' under E-flat, 'is' under D, and 'here.' under C and G.

What we need is here.

What we need is here.

English from "The Wild Goose" in *Selected Poems of Wendell Berry*, © 1998 Wendell Berry.
Music, Amy McCreath © 2017 Augsburg Fortress.

O healing river

F-26

Fran Minkoff

Fred Hellerman: USA

♩ = 56 F7 B♭ E♭ B♭ E♭7/B♭

1. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
 2. This land is parch-ing, this land is
 3. Let the seed of free-dom a - wake and

B♭ E♭ B♭ F7 B♭ B♭/A Gm C7

wa - ters, send down your wa - ters up - on this
 burn - ing, no seed is grow - ing in the bar - ren
 flour - ish. Let the deep roots nour - ish. Let the tall stalks

F C7 F F7 B♭ E♭ B♭ D7

land. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
 grounds. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your
 rise. O heal - ing riv - er, send down your

Gm D7 Gm C7 B♭ E♭ B♭/F E♭/F B♭

wa - ters and wash the blood from off the sand.
 wa - ters. O heal - ing riv - er, send your wa - ters down.
 wa - ters. O heal - ing riv - er, from out of the skies.

English Fran Minkoff. Music Fred Hellerman © 1964 (renewed), Appleseed Music, Inc.

Sending Forth

Benediction

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*As you leave, please return songbooks to the cart in the entryway
 or hand them to an usher.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship on 4 October – Blessing of the Animals

Optional Gathering at 16h30, Blessing and Worship at 17h30

The Feast of St. Francis, marks the closing of the Season of Creation. We will celebrate the saint, who recognized the presence of God in all creatures, with a blessing of the animals. You are invited to bring your pet/s to church!

We'll begin by gathering in the Parc de l'Observatoire, Rue Charles-Galland, right across from the entrance of the Musées d'Art et d'Histoire at 16h30. You will find us on the other side of the vegetable garden. Then we will process, with our non-human friends, to the church. Worship will begin at 17h30 with blessing the animals outside, in the front garden; those who need to leave at this point can do so, and those who can join worship in the church are welcome inside. Questions? Contact the church office.

Testimonies of Christians from the Holy Land – 1 October

The World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Assembly of Christian Churches and Communities of Geneva (RECG) are hosting an evening of testimonies from the Holy Land on Thursday 1 October 2026 at 6.30 pm in the Salle Trocmé (Rue du Jura 2 / Geneva).

Speakers include:

- Ambassador Amira Hanania (a Palestinian diplomat and representative in Europe for the Higher Presidential Committee for Church Affairs)
- Mr. Youssef Daher, Coordinator of the WCC Liaison Office in Jerusalem
- Mr. Iskandar Majlaton, Local Coordinator of the WCC's Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI).

The evening will be held mainly in French (with translation of the testimonies held in English) and will conclude with a reception. Those interested in attending are asked to register online:

<https://framaforms.org/inscription-a-levenement-temoignages-chretiens-en-terre-sainte-quels-enjeux-au-coeur-de-lepreuve-1er>

Church School Now In Session!

We meet each Sunday during the school year (except on the first of each month, when worship is in the evening, and during school vacations). There are two classes—one for ages 3-8, and one for 9 through confirmation age—both meeting in the top floor classrooms. Children begin the worship service with their families and return to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

Choir Practice on Thursday Evenings

The choir of the English-Speaking Congregation is open to anyone—we meet on Thursday evenings from 19h30 until 21h00 to learn the music for the upcoming Sunday worship service and work on additional pieces. Contact Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg with any questions. Come and sing!

Interested in Joining the English-Speaking Congregation?

Membership in our congregation is simple, a way of claiming this as your home church in Geneva for however long you are here. You can still retain membership in a church in your home country if you wish. If you'd like to learn more about joining the congregation as a member, please contact the church office or Andy Willis soon. We plan to receive newmembers during the month of October and will hold an orientation session in the coming weeks.

Women's Circle

Ladies, come and join our Women's Circle! We gather in our church, our village, on one Saturday each month from 10am to 12pm for coffee and croissants and for fellowship and fun. All women church members and regular attendees are welcome. Dates for the coming months: **17 October, 21 November, Friday 4 December (Christmas dinner 18h-22h)**. Please contact, Cynthia Wilbers-Muturi, Margaret Kehoe-Winkler, Kim Avafia, or the office for more information.

Young Adults' Group

If you're 18-30, you have a place here! Join our young adults group to grow in faith, build friendships, and walk with Christ. We'll be meeting up one Friday and one Saturday per month at church (top floor). To get connected, please text or approach Naomi (+41762146607), Olivia (+41764493137), or Ano (+41795502633).

Painful Hope – Event at the ELCG on Wednesday, 14 October

Please join us on 14 October 2026 at 19:30 at the ELCG for a conversation with Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Khaled Abu Awwad of Roots/Shorashim/Judur. Working in the West Bank, Roots brings together Palestinians and Israelis, people living side by side in a deeply unequal and painful reality who would otherwise have little meaningful contact with one another. The aim is not to erase political differences or normalize the status quo, but to confront difficult histories and lived realities, challenge deeply held assumptions, and create space for recognition, nonviolence and change.

Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, who will join us in person, is an Orthodox Israeli rabbi and one of the founders of Roots. Joining him by Zoom from the West Bank will be Khaled Abu Awwad, Palestinian co-director of Roots, a Muslim leader and the founder of several peace and reconciliation initiatives. Together, Hanan and Khaled offer a window into a form of Palestinian-Israeli engagement that is difficult, imperfect and rarely visible from afar, but also

deeply human and, precisely because of where and among whom it takes place, remarkably powerful.

Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

Our congregation holds a simple coffee hour after worship each Sunday. Preparation for coffee hour is by neighborhood groups:

4 October – Group D

11 October – Group E

18 October – Group A

25 October – Group B

*If you can help on a week when your group is assigned,
please let your group's coordinator know.*

cover image:

Photo by [Aaron Burden](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Upcoming Events:

Thurs, 1 Oct	19h30	Choir practice
Sun, 4 Oct	16h30	Pre-worship gathering, Parc de l'Observatoire
	17h30	Worship
Office hours: Tuesday 9h30-17h30, Thursday 9h30-17h30, Friday 9h30-13h30		

Our church is entirely self-supporting. Our ministry is entirely funded by the contributions of members and friends of the congregation. Thank you for your support! There are four ways you can donate today:

By bank transfer: Using the banking app on your phone, scan one of the QR codes below:



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By TWINT: QR code inside this bulletin
By cash: Place your contribution in the offering bags during worship.
By U.S. dollar check: Make the check payable to “Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” and on the memo portion, write “GMG 0858”.

If you are a guest in our congregation today, *please fill out the connection card below—you can place it in the offering bag or hand it to the pastor or one of the ushers. We’d love to be in touch and answer any questions you might have about the church.*

ELCG Connection Card

Name _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Comments _____
New to Geneva? Y/N _____ Date _____